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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse  
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The proposed settlement by Microsoft Corp. is a travesty. Microsoft is obviously a monopoly, with over 90% of the consumer and business personal computer operating system market, and with MS Word used by almost every office or department at schools and businesses. Windows, like Word, is a sub-standard piece of software: clumsy, unstable and blatantly incompatible with other manufacturer's software.

And what of MS's innovation? Stealing the modern GUI from Apple, and failing to even improve on it. Stealing the web browser from Netscape, and failing to improve on it for nearly 5 years (Netscape 4.7 from 1996 is a good as MS's Explorer from 2000). Hotmail, bought from another party and tinkered with until it has become bloated, slow and borderline unusable compared to the way it was three years ago? Have you ever seen the pathetic power management Windows provides for notebook computers?

Do not allow MS to continue its tyrannical rule of the personal computer market. Aside from stifling innovation by forcing the rest of the industry to play it's game, (such as the whole Java fiasco!) and keeping prices high, (forcing users to have a P800 processor to run a file display system, er, OS, that is essentially the same as it was five years ago) , it forces users to play the Microsoft game. Why is it that instead of an open text standard (along the lines of HTML), MS Word documents have become the de facto document exchange format, despite the high processor power demands of any recent version, the clumsy user interface, and oddities of display and font requirements on different computers and on different operating systems? The answer is simple: Microsoft is a monopoly, and uses it's monopolist's power to force the market to buy it's products, rather than let the market decide.

You are in a position to prevent this situation from contiuing, and preserve what little competition that exists in the computer market today. DO NOT let MS flood the educational system with cheap junk that costs them nothing to produce, and which they can count at full value in the settlement by tricks of accounting. By all rights, Microsoft should be billed every time a Windows licence is given away for free, as they benefit nearly as much from users running Windows without paying for it as they do if the user were to pay for their copy.

Act in the public interest, the interest of technological progress, the interests of the free market, and NOT in the interests of Bill Gates or Microsoft. By the way, Gates himself should be held responsible for the

actions of his company: the limited liability of corporate executives is a relatively novel concept, and should not be taken as the gospel that it has been in the past 90 years or so. Deal the with the real problems, not just the current symptoms.

Regards,

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